

## WEIGHTY MATTERS FOR TENNIS SOLONS

Annual Meeting of Association  
Called for Next Month  
in This City.

### OFFICERS TO BE CHOSEN

Newport May Lose Championships—Two Reports of the Ranking Committee.

A call for the thirty-first annual meeting of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association has been sent to the 250 clubs and associations comprising that body for Friday, February 9, at the Waldorf-Astoria. There will be two sessions, the first convening at 3:30 in the afternoon and continuing until 6:30 when a recess will be taken until 8 o'clock.

A request for nominations for officers and members of the executive committee is made. The officers whose terms expire are President, James Dwight, Boston; vice-president, Robert D. Wren, New York; treasurer, Richard Stevens, Hoboken; secretary, A. L. Hoskins, Philadelphia. The terms of three of the nine members of the executive committee also expire in consequence of the plan adopted last year of fixing three years as the term of office. The retiring three are Sumner Hardy, San Francisco; Ralph W. Holton, Cincinnati; and L. D. Scott, Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Dwight has been anxious to retire from the presidency of the association for a number of years, and last February he stated positively that he would not serve again. He reiterated the determination very recently and it is believed that it will be necessary at the forthcoming meeting to elect a successor. William A. Larned, the present champion, who is in New Zealand, captaining the Australia Davis cup team, has been suggested for the position, as has Henry W. Slocum, a former champion and president. Robert D. Wren, now vice-president, could have the nomination if he wished it, but he has intimated that his business interests and duties will not permit him to serve. There is a strong probability that Secretary A. L. Hoskins will also decline reelection.

Among the other important matters that will be up for settlement at the meeting is the awarding of the championships for 1912. An effort to take the meeting away from Newport will again be made and it is thought that the movement will do even more strength than it did last year when it came within less than twenty votes of success. On that occasion the weakness of the opposition lay in the fact that there was no place ready to hold the championships if they were taken from Newport, but it is already known that this year there will be at least one bidder and perhaps several. An application will be made by the Point Judith Country Club of Narragansett Pier for both the singles and doubles events. Philadelphia will also be a factor and the New Canaan Club of Westport and the Greenwich Cricket Club will enter.

The next subject of importance that will come up at the meeting is the reorganization of the 1911 ranking committee. Two reports were submitted by the committee, one signed by H. W. Slocum and R. D. Larned, and another by Dr. Dwight, and the former was adopted by the majority and stated that there was no real or just cause for either to be given preference over the other.

The committee recommended that the major be brought to the attention of the members at the next annual meeting. It is proposed moreover to make the new S. C. L. Constitution dissolved and presented a minority report recommending that the president, executive committee, or association appoint a ranking committee each year.

In regard to the ranking problem, it is agreed to leave the association with a majority report recommending that the major be brought to the attention of the members at the next annual meeting.

The second minority report, signed by Dr. Dwight, recommended that the major be retained and that the ranking committee be given authority to make recommendations to the president, executive committee, or association.

Dr. Dwight's report, however, was not received and stated that there was no real or just cause for either to be given preference over the other.

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### SPORTING DOINGS ABROAD. Farcical Fight Between Wells and Sterbeck.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—One of the most farcical and ridiculous exhibitions ever seen in the ring was that between Bomberhead Wells and Fred Sterbeck at the National Sporting Club on Monday night. And Wells and Sterbeck are respectively champions of Great Britain and of South Africa on the form which they displayed when they met on Monday, the greatest novice had an opportunity of winning an honored title. The handsome new, although yet incomplete arena of the club was packed by the pride of the nation to see that which was expected to put to rout the littlest giant—that between Jackson and Slavin. Manager Bettinson stated after the bout that Sterbeck had all records to the club, the greatest having been set by having been carried off giving \$6,000 and training expenses, the second largest purse the club ever provided for a fight that would have been fished out of any other arena in the country.

Wells, who proved himself a great boxer against Percy Flynn and Ivan Hagen, seemed to have left all his nerve behind him when he entered the ring. Wells is game enough for anything, but his temperament, highly strung as it is, will ever be in the way of his becoming a great fighter. Wells won in the eleventh round through a double piece of luck. The first was that Sterbeck by following the most ridiculous tactics had used up his greater strength and was weak as Wells was all in the finish.

The second stroke of fortune was Sterbeck's misinterpretation of the result when he was down. Sterbeck was counted out while on his hands and knees, waiting willing to get up at once, but in the roar of the moment he did not hear the timekeeper's voice, was too slow and beaten flatly.

Sterbeck had been trained by Bob Armstrong and Dixie Lad and was powerfully strong, fit and confident when he entered the ring. Although a shade more than 6 feet two inches shorter than Wells, Sterbeck fought until his back was horizontal and his head lower, more like a wrestler looking for a leg hold. The style raised a laugh from all in the way, leaving Sterbeck's punches to be finished him a score of times, but Wells was durable and tickled. Throughout the whole contest, feelings such as never were heard in the famous club were continually coming from the spectators. When the fourth round had been reached, Wells was well beaten and it looked certain that the South African would repeat the feat performed by Gumer Moor and undo the great Bomberhead, but the latter's feet were too quick and took him out of harm's way at times when a punch to his good left hand would have been more useful and orthodox.

Some 500 Americans present in the grand gallery, including Kid Murray, who gave up the amateur title to him, and challenge the winner in the ring. Harry Hartnett Manager Bettinson, however, could have none of these show-off efforts and took his challenge to Wells and has commissioned Bill Dowd the Turkman to arrange a match with the Englishman if possible.

Among the other important matters that will be up for settlement at the meeting is the awarding of the championships for 1912. An effort to take the meeting away from Newport will again be made and it is believed that it will be necessary at the forthcoming meeting to elect a successor. William A. Larned, the present champion, who is in New Zealand, captaining the Australia Davis cup team, has been suggested for the position, as has Henry W. Slocum, a former champion and president. Robert D. Wren, now vice-president, could have the nomination if he wished it, but he has intimated that his business interests and duties will not permit him to serve. There is a strong probability that Secretary A. L. Hoskins will also decline reelection.

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